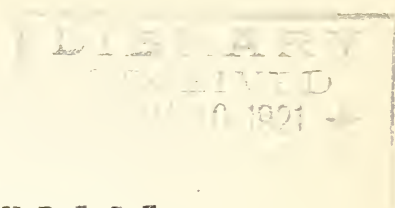


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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

September 1, 1920

A Project is a cooperative agreement under which any line of extension work may be conducted. The Plan of Work gives details for conducting the work during the current year and is subject to revision as the work progresses and as its status changes.

Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

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It is our plan this month to give something along the line of standard horticultural and pomological projects and plans of work. In the first place in drawing up a project only those things that are of extreme importance in the state should be listed in the project. In making up an outline for the project due consideration should always be given to the length of time over which the work is to extend. In most instances 15 or 20 years is not too far to look into the future. This is especially true of such lines of work as the maintenance of soil fertility on truck farms, orchard management and similar lines of work. The ideal project should not be more than a page and a half long, the attached being a general type adopted by this office.

Where this project is to cover both pomological and horticultural work the same should be clearly stated. In some cases, however, it is desirable to have a separate project for each. This is especially true where the work is conducted separately and where specialists in each line are in charge of the work.

While the project is intended to cover a period of years, the plan of work is made primarily for the current year and is subject to revision and changes as one phase of the work is either completed or the status of it materially changes. No definite plan of work can be given that will fit the conditions in the various states but the principles may for the most part remain the same. Community leaders and county agents should be consulted before the plan of work is drawn up. As a rule a visit on the part of the state specialist to the section where the work is to be conducted will be necessary before the plan can be finally agreed upon. The important point is that the growers or those who are to be benefited by the work should cooperate in the making of the plan. The work of the extension specialist as conducted under the plan of work will be of little value unless provision is made for spreading the information and the results to other members of the communities or to different communities. For this reason a definite scheme should be incorporated in the plan of work for carrying results to other parts of the state where similar conditions prevail.

The keeping of records of demonstrations is also of extreme importance and provision should be made in the plan whereby the state specialist or county agent will furnish the cooperators with suitable blanks for keeping and turning in such records. A few of the directors have gone on record as opposed to the extensive keeping of demonstration records on the ground that the keeping of these records has entailed so much work and required so much time as to detract from the conduct of the work itself. This objection can largely be overcome by having the proper blanks upon which the records may be easily kept. Provision should also be made for the publication of all important results.

After all, the important point with any piece of demonstration work is to drive home the lesson that is being demonstrated. There is perhaps no better means of doing this than by word of mouth, and it is desirable to bring together people who are interested, or should be interested, and have them make a personal visit to the demonstrations, then while they are on the ground it is important that the leader - the county agent or the state specialist - should call their attention directly to the important points brought out in the demonstration. This opportunity is frequently missed by state leaders and others connected with the work. We have, for instance, side by side a clear-cut demonstration of the value of seed obtained from different sources. The casual observer will go over these demonstrations without getting very much out of it unless he has the lesson forcibly brought to his attention. In the case of orchard demonstrations it is desirable to carry the application still further and not only to tell how the work should be done but to do the work and get the persons who are to be interested to doing it themselves. The success of the East Texas Peach Special was largely due to this plan and to the fact that a large number of pruning saws and other tools were carried to the orchard and distributed among the growers and they themselves were taught to do the work.

Another feature of the plan of work is proper timing or fixing of the dates within which the work should be done in a given locality.

The plan of work attached will convey the idea but it should be borne in mind that this sample or type is drawn for pomological work only. The "Object" - To produce fruit or vegetables for home use and for market - would be the same in either case. The "Method of Procedure" for vegetable work, however, would necessarily vary. The timing of the work would also differ. In states where handled jointly both lines of work can be covered under one project. In that case the "Name" should be - Fruit and Vegetable Growing - and the "Object" should be - To demonstrate profitable methods of fruit and vegetable growing for commercial and home use. The "Method of Procedure" would preferably include two explanatory paragraphs but in all cases the second paragraph reading "Detailed plans for conducting the work etc", should be embodied.

* * * * *

On August 4, a very successful meeting of the truck growers of Massachusetts was held at the Massachusetts Agricultural College Field Station near Lexington. This field demonstration was attended by several hundred practical growers who spent the day going over the interesting demonstrations being conducted on the grounds. The Massachusetts Field Station was established about four years ago by act of the state legislature and is maintained as a part of the

vegetable gardening department of the college. The field meeting on August 4 was the annual event for calling the attention of the growers to the results being obtained.

Among the most important of the demonstrations were the manure economy tests where manure, green manure crops and fertilizers are used separately and in combination, the results being read through the agency of a large number of crops. Another interesting demonstration was that with leguminous cover crops and green manure crops. Under variety adaptation demonstrations, was a very interesting collection of Copenhagen cabbage, seed of which was obtained from 25 or 30 different sources. This demonstration showed a wide variation and emphasized the importance of good seed in a manner that could not be misunderstood.

The field station is equipped with four demonstration and experimental greenhouses, these having been but recently completed. The greenhouses will be heated by steam generated with oil. The station is also equipped with a service building and later is to be provided with an office or administration building which will include a small assembly room for the holding of meetings.

During the afternoon there was a demonstration of small tractors for garden cultivation. A meeting of the Boston Market Gardeners' Association was held during the day at which time addresses were delivered by Dr. Haskell, director of the state experiment station, by Dr. Butterfield, president of the state college at Amherst, and others connected with the work. Much of the success of the Massachusetts Field Station is due to the energy and enterprise of Prof. H. F. Thompson, head of the vegetable gardening department of the college. The significant feature of this field station is that it is working upon the problems of greatest importance to the growers of Massachusetts and suitable means are being used to bring the results to their attention. The work is not simply carried through and its application left to chance but a definite plan for getting the results to the people is being followed. The field meeting on August 4 was a part of that plan.

* * * * *

Prof. Close has just returned from a trip to Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. In Wisconsin, Mr. Gifford has been doing some most efficient work in spraying apple trees and Prof. Aust has some good demonstrations of ornamental plantings around farm homes under way.

Owing to a long illness last spring Prof. Mackintosh could not carry out all of the pruning, spraying and other work which was planned for Minnesota.

Since Prof. Waldron gave up the work in North Dakota last

spring, most of Mr. Yager's time has been devoted to Experiment Station duties and some college teaching. He has drawn farmstead plans of shelter belts, and fruit and vegetable garden plantings for several farm homes.

In South Dakota Prof. McCall's principal lines of work are potato improvement and farmstead planting. The potato work is showing fine results and includes seed selection, seed treatment, seed plots, cultivation, spraying, standardization of varieties, grading, storing and marketing, and seed certification. Twenty-one new demonstration farmstead plantings were started last spring; these include arrangement of buildings, shelter belts, fruit garden, vegetable garden and ornamental plantings. Assistance has also been given to a good many people in the rearrangement of buildings, drives, fences, windbreaks and ornamental plants.

In discussing boys' fruit club work with Prof. Mackintosh he suggested the idea of training demonstration spraying teams. This is a good idea and may be carried further to include demonstration teams in tree pruning, tree planting, small fruit pruning and planting, grading and packing fruit, etc.

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Prof. F. E. Miller, who has for some time been in charge of the vegetable work for the Department at the Pee Dee Station near Florence, South Carolina, has resigned to accept a position in the State Department of Agriculture in North Carolina. Mr. Miller's headquarters will be at Raleigh and he will have charge of the work of the six branch experiment stations located at different points in the state.

On September 1 a cooperative arrangement will become effective between the Bureau of Plant Industry and the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station whereby Mr. Charles Dearing, horticulturist in the Bureau of Plant Industry and for some years past in charge of the muscadine grape project, will become also assistant director of the Experiment Station, in charge of the superintendency of the trucking branch station located at Willard, N. C. Under this cooperative arrangement it is expected that the muscadine grape work will be somewhat extended and that it will be possible under Mr. Dearing's superintendency to further develop the other station projects which are being carried on at this branch station. In further developing the grape work it is expected that the utilization activities will be given a prominent place. Many of the home demonstration agents throughout the South are familiar with this utilization work, it having been presented by Mr. Dearing at their conferences and state meetings.

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The Extension Service of the State of Massachusetts has drawn up a project relative to the community storage of fruits and vegetables, this to be administered under the department of horticultural manufactures of the Agricultural College at Amherst. The plan of this project is to conduct demonstrations and assist manufacturing concerns, apartment house owners, and other agencies closely connected with the housing of large numbers of people in the proper storage of farm products. It will involve cold storage, ordinary ventilated storage, pits and other means of conserving fruits and vegetables purchased in carload or other large lots and distributed to employees or groups of people. If you have in your state any outstanding examples of such work being successfully carried on, we would appreciate your giving us full information regarding plans followed and results obtained.

One important point was omitted last month in our discussion of the use of demonstration trains for extension work. The Smith-Lever law specifically states that the funds appropriated under the Act cannot be used in the operation of demonstration trains or in any connection therewith. In cases where the state colleges have participated in the operation of these trains, the expenses thereof have been borne on state funds and not on Smith-Lever funds or their offset. Exceptions have been made in cases where the railroads have furnished cars free of charge for the handling of exhibits from place to place, these cars being moved on regular trains and set out at appointed places. No part of the salary or expenses of those taking part in this work can be carried on Smith-Lever funds, however, and participation in the operation of such cars by extension workers should in our judgment be undertaken only where the advisability of such work is fully apparent.

1. The first part of the report
describes the general situation
of the country and the
state of the economy.
It also mentions the
political situation and
the state of the
army.

2. The second part of the report
describes the situation in
the different provinces.
It mentions the state of
the economy and the
political situation in
each province.

3. The third part of the report
describes the situation in
the different districts.
It mentions the state of
the economy and the
political situation in
each district.

4. The fourth part of the report
describes the situation in
the different villages.
It mentions the state of
the economy and the
political situation in
each village.